

Comparisons of Job Characteristics

Focus Occupation: **Medical Assistants (31-9092)**

Associated Occupation: **Physician Assistants (29-1071)**

[Compare Knowledge](#)

[Compare Skills](#)

[Compare Abilities](#)

[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)

[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 63

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)

Associated Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Medicine and Dentistry	3.7	22.5	12.5	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Biology	3.7	19.4	2.9	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Psychology	6.4	18.3	9.3	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Customer and Personal Service	11.3	17.9	13.7	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Therapy and Counseling	3.8	17.5	6.0	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Chemistry	4.8	11.7	4.4	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Sociology and Anthropology	4.1	10.2	3.3	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 91

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)

Associated Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Reading Comprehension	10.7	15.1	11.5	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Critical Thinking	10.8	14.6	11.1	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required

Judgment and Decision Making	9.4	13.8	8.4	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Social Perceptiveness	9.1	13.5	11.4	<	A higher skill level may be required
Service Orientation	7.9	12.8	10.1	<	A higher skill level may be required
Monitoring	9.9	12.6	11.5	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Science	4.5	12.2	5.8	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Abilities

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 96

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)

Associated Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)

Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Oral Comprehension	12.5	16.0	13.5	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Problem Sensitivity	11.1	16.0	11.6	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Oral Expression	12.4	15.4	13.9	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Deductive Reasoning	10.6	15.0	10.1	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Inductive Reasoning	10.2	15.0	9.1	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Written Comprehension	11.0	14.2	11.4	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Near Vision	11.1	12.8	11.2	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Information Ordering	9.9	11.8	10.2	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Category Flexibility	9.0	10.8	9.4	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Speed of Closure	5.9	8.7	6.7	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 89

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)

Associated Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)

Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity
Administer injections	60
Administer medications or treatments	46

Assist in examining or treating dental or medical patients	84
Collect clinical data	56
Collect specimens from patients	82
Draw blood	74
Inventory medical supplies or instruments	67
Maintain dental or medical records	64
Prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments	70
Record medical history or data	68
Take vital signs	56
Use interpersonal communication techniques	10
Use knowledge of medical insurance systems	99
Use knowledge of medical terminology	40
Use medical lab techniques	81
Use sanitation practices in health care settings	48
Weigh patients	75

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus
Occupation to Associated
Occupation: 84

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)
Associated Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Ambulation and transfer and positioning aids for the physically challenged	27
Blood pressure units and related products	11
Casting and splinting supplies	25
Casting equipment and parts and accessories	47
Computer printers	2
Computers	1
Content authoring and editing software	1
Electrocardiography EKG units and related products	20
Hearing testing products	31
Industry specific software	1
Information exchange software	1
Injection and aspiration needles and accessories	25
Intubation supplies	21
Laboratory microscope slides and supplies	20
Medical diagnostic x ray products	26
Medical suction and vacuum products	33
Network applications software	1
Ophthalmic diagnostic exam products	27
Pulmonary function testing and treatment products	24
Respiratory humidity and aerosol therapy products	31
Scopes and specula and accessories for medical exam diagnostic use	23

Security and control equipment	30
Specimen collection and transport containers and supplies	14
Stethoscopes and related products	14
Surgical equipment and accessories and related products	23
Suture and related products	23
Syringes and accessories	14
Viewing and observing instruments and accessories	4

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.